Remarks

The Applicants have cancelled Claims 24-46 and substituted new Claims 47-58. Support for the new claims may be found in the attached Table 1. Table 1 provides precise locations within the Specification for such support. It also refers to all of Figs. 1-7 and the originally-filed claims. Collectively, the Applicants respectfully submit that this disclosure provides ample support for new Claims 47-58. Entry into the official file is respectfully requested.

The Applicants acknowledge the Restriction Requirement with respect to dividing original Claims 1-23 into Group I including Claims 1-11 and Group II including Claims 12-23. The Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction is moot in view of the cancellation of Claims 1-23 in the Preliminary Amendment filed June 26, 2007. However, the Applicants respectfully submit that this Response nonetheless addresses that restriction inasmuch as new Claims 47-58 are drawn to a process and not to a process and an apparatus as in original Claims 1-23. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that no Restriction Requirement is necessary for the newly-submitted Claims 47-58.

Examination of new Claims 47-58 on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Daniel Christenbury
Reg. No. 31,750
Attorney for Applicants

TDC/vp
(215) 656-3381

Table 1

Amended claim 1 - Method for detecting the formation and development of a biofilm of a microorganism on a surface in a liquid culture medium (4), which method includes the following series of steps:	**Description as originally filed, in particular:** - Page 8, lines 6 to 14 and 21 to 24 and 28 to 31 (method of the invention) - Page 1, lines 17 to 28 (the term "viscosity" is clearly defined here by "restriction of the movement of one or more particle(s) by a biofilm") - Page 2, line 27 to page 4, line 7 (in which the term "biofilm" is explicitly defined and described as being developed on a surface and in a liquid culture medium) - Page 12, lines 3 to 7 (culture reactor) - Page 15, line 20 to page 16, line 29 (method of the invention) - page 17, lines 17 to 23 (particle resting at the bottom of the reactor or floating at the surface of the medium) - pages 18 to 24 (examples)	**Figures** 1 to 7	**Claims originally filed** 10 and 20
- step (a)	- page 8 line 27 to page 9, line 1 - page 10 line 1 to page 11, line 5 (definition of the at least one particle) - page 12, lines 11 to 15 ; page 12, line 25 to page 13, line 31 ; page 14, lines 8 to 10 ; page (particle resting on a surface in the culture medium) - Page 2, line 27 to page 4, line 7 (biofilm developing on a surface in the culture medium) - page 17, lines 17 to 23 (particle resting at the bottom of the reactor or floating at the surface of the medium) - page 18, lines 9 to 23 and following (principle and procedure of the method of the invention, examples)		
- steps (b) and (c)	- page 9, lines 6 to 24, - page 10, line 1 to page 11, line 5 and page 13, lines 14 to 32 (particles and detections) - (detections) - page 14, line 18 to page 15, line 22 - Page 15, line 32 to page 16, line 25 (immobilization of particles by the biofilm). - examples pages 18 and following		